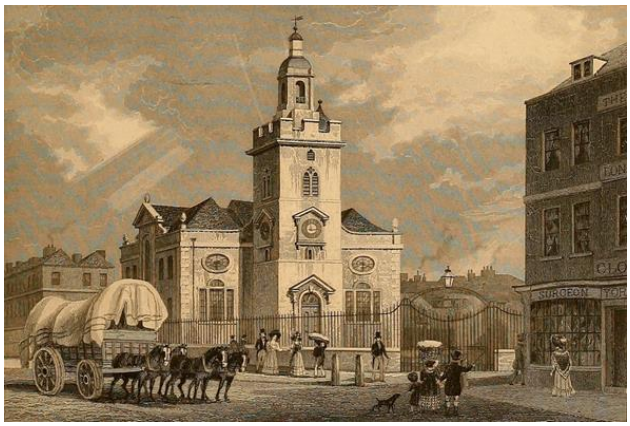
James Blizzard (1795-1846) A long march from Whitechapel to India and Chelsea
by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

James Blizzard (1795-1846)

A long march from Whitechapel to India and Chelsea

by Francis Howcutt



by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
The Blizard or Blizzard surname	4
Kingston, Petersham and Ham	4
Richard Blizard: grandfather	5
Allen Blizard: uncle	6
John Blizard: uncle	7
William Blizard: father	8
Mary Eals (widow): mother	10
Shoreditch and Whitechapel	11
Army Career	12
Court Martial	15
Royal Military Asylum	16
Sarah Shealds (a widow): wife	17
Mary Ann Blizard: daughter	19
Sarah Blizard: daughter	20
Appendix A: Early Blizards at Kingston and Barnes	21
Appendix B: Will of Richard Blizzard, probate 1759	22
Appendix C: Where William Blizard lived at Shoreditch & Whitechapel	23
Appendix D: William Blizard of St Martin Outwich, Whitechapel & Bethnal Green	24
Appendix E: Origins of Mary Corderoy, later Eales, then Blizard	26
Appendix F: Descent of Eileen Gladwys Dalby from Richard Blizard	27

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Introduction

This account of the life of James Blizzard includes details of his ancestry, close relatives and extensive military service. The headings of the sections about individual members of his family include their relationship to him. It illustrates how distinctive signatures can help in positively identifying a particular individual, even one with a large pool of neighbours in a city where names were often duplicated. It is also an example of how Army service involved international travel during the lifetime of a man who eventually died only five miles from where he had been born.

Thank you to:

- London Archives, The National Archives, Surrey Archives and St George's University Hospital for curating and making available parish registers, military and other historical documents.
- FamilySearch, Institute of Historical Research, Internet Archive, National Library of Scotland, Wellcome Trust and Wikimedia Commons for making freely available online digitised versions of books, maps, pictures and other resources.
- A Vision of Britain Through Time, which freely provides a vast amount of historical material, much of which is copyright of the Great Britain Historical GIS Project and the University of Portsmouth.
- Angie Chester for proof reading a late draft of this account. Naturally, I am responsible for any errors in the final version.

Many details of James' military service can be found in the muster rolls of his regiment, which are kept at The National Archives and have this range of references:

- 1st Battalion (1815-1820): WO12/1895-1897
- 2nd Battalion (1820-1839): WO12/1959-1973

The Internet links cited were checked on the date of this Introduction. If you find one that no longer works or a destination has changed for the worse, the Wayback Machine may be able to help you find the material that used to be there.[1]

James Blizzard was my 3x great grandfather. His known descendants who are alive today are all connected to him through my mother, Eileen Gladwys Dalby (1914-2010), whose descent from James is shown in Appendix F.

No history is complete. Scope for future research includes seeking further evidence about:

- the precise location of Manor Farm, Petersham and how long members of the Blizard family were associated with it
- the origins of Mary Corderoy, later Eales, then Blizard, some possible evidence for which is discussed in Appendix E.

Francis Howcutt
21 August 2026
francishowcutt@gmail.com

[1] https://web.archive.org/

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

The Blizard or Blizzard surname

Blizard or Blizzard is not a particularly common surname in England. Civil registration began in July 1837. The indexes compiled by Ancestry and by FindMyPast to their images of the 1841 census of England & Wales indicate that the number of people recorded with these spellings was in the order of 400 as Blizard and 90 as Blizzard.[2]

A substantial proportion of early references to the name were in and around London, Gloucestershire and Suffolk. It is very doubtful whether everyone with the surname Blizard or Blizzard has an identifiable shared origin.

The surname Blissett and its variations has sometimes been confused with Blizard but the two surname groups do not seem usually to be interchangeable.

James' family surname is usually spelled 'Blizard', but he signed his name as 'Blizzard' and this is the version found in his army records. Therefore, he is referred to here with the spelling that he used personally but, except for direct quotations, the version Blizard is adopted for other members of the family.

Kingston, Petersham and Ham

The earliest definite references to James' forebears in the direct male line have been found in the parish register of Kingston-on-Thames.[3] Ham, the hamlet where the Blizard family were living in 1726, was then part of the parish of Kingston, although it was physically closer to the church at Petersham than to the one at Kingston.

Kingston, an important market town with a bridge that crosses the Thames, had a population of 4,612 at the time of the 1801 census. The parish church, dedicated to All Saints, is a Grade I listed building.[4] The town is some 12 miles south-west of the City of London.

The village of Petersham is to the east of a bend of the River Thames, two miles north of Kingston. Originally, it was a chapelry of the parish of Kingston but as the result of a private Act of Parliament in 1769 it became a separate parish. Even before that change, it had its own parish register and burials were carried out in the churchyard next to its church.[5] Petersham church, which is dedicated to St Peter, is a Grade II* listed building.[6] The population of the parish of Petersham was reported by the 1801 census as 471.

Much information about Petersham and Ham can be found in a 'Character Appraisal and Management Plan' published by the Borough of Richmond upon Thames.[7]

[2] Ancestry has 438 as Blizard & 84 as Blizzard. FMP has 368 as Blizard & 95 as Blizzard.
[3] Further references to Kingston-on-Thames are shortened to 'Kingston'.
[4] https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1358437?section=official-list-entry
[5] 9 Geo.III cap 65 – Kingston upon Thames (Surrey) Vicarage division.
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/changes/chron-tables/private/16
[6] https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1065334?section=official-list-entry
[7] https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/4068/ca_studies_6_7_23_67.pdf

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Richard Blizard: grandfather

No record has been found that is definitely of his birth or baptism. Nor has any record been found that is definitely of his marriage. However, the following records may provide clues to Richard's origins before the earliest reference to him at Kingston in 1726:

- The register of St Mary Whitechapel records the baptism on 29 April 1722 of 'Susanna Plyzard, dr: of Richard & Elizabeth, in Peacock Court' (the surname does clearly start with the letter 'P' but if 'Plysard' does exists as a surname it is extremely uncommon).
- 'Richard the son of Richard Blizard and Hannah his wife' was baptised at Shipton Moyne, Gloucestershire, on 23 November 1695. No further record has been found of him.
- Richard who established the family at Petersham may have been related to one or more of the individuals recorded at Kingston and Barnes who are discussed in Appendix A.

The only record of the marriage of a Richard Blizard & Elizabeth that has been found during the period 1700 to 1726 is in the bishop's transcript of Widford, Gloucestershire, which records 'Richard Blizzard and Elizabeth Pebworth both of Stow [Stowe-on-the-Wold] were married in this parish Church december 21 - 1721'. However, this cannot refer to the couple who had children christened at Kingston from 1726 onwards, as eight children of Richard Blizard were baptised at Stow on the Wold between 1726 and 1749, the last two with the mother's name recorded as Elizabeth and one of the sons (in 1732) being given the name 'Pebworth'.

Richard Blizard was the father of nine children whose baptisms are recorded at Kingston:

	Baptised	Married	Buried
Allen (son)	1726	Mary Beal 1755	1773 Petersham
Mary	1728		
Richard	1729/30	n/a	1741 Petersham
Elizabeth	1731	Thomas Griffin 1750	1808 Petersham
Ann	1733		
John	1735	Susanna Chowles 1760 Mary Priest 1764	1764 Petersham
Thomas	1737	n/a	1738 Petersham
Martha	1739	Thomas Huet 1768	
William	1740/1	Mary Keene (widow) 1762 Elizabeth Parker 1767 Mary Eales (widow) 1779	

The christening record of Allen indicates that the family was then living at Ham.

Apart from the baptisms of Ann (when the mother's name is not stated in the parish register) and William, each of those in the table above give the parents' names as Richard & Elizabeth. Kingston parish register records the final christening in the list as 'William Blizard s: of Richd: & Mary'. There is no record in the Kingston or Petersham registers of the burial of an Elizabeth Blizard or the remarriage of a Richard Blizard during the 24 months between the christening of Martha on 30 March 1739 and that of William on 11 March 1740/1741. It is therefore almost certain that the name recorded for William's mother as 'Mary' was a mistake for 'Elizabeth' and that the nine children in the above list were all full siblings.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

On 22 May 1757, the total rating assessment for Petersham was £926; only three properties had a higher figure than the £60 assessment for 'Mr Richard Blizard' of 'Manor Farm'.[8] In 1824, his grandson Allen Blizard (1758-1832) was the innkeeper of the 'Plough and Harrow' (since rebuilt and now named the 'Dysart Arms'), a former farm house which stood to the east of Petersham churchyard.[9] This may indicate the location of Richard Blizard's home.
Richard Blizzard described himself as a farmer of Petersham when he made his will on 6 September 1758 (see Appendix B). In it, he left everything to his son John Blizzard whom he nominated to be the sole executor. Richard made a mark rather than signing the document. The will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 24 April 1759.[10] As no wife is mentioned, she had probably died before Richard made the will. The only burial recorded at Kingston or Petersham during that period that could be of his wife (as either Elizabeth or Mary) is that of 'Elizabeth Blizzard' at Petersham on 24 January 1757.

Allen Blizard: uncle

Kingston parish register records the baptism on 16 October 1726 of 'Alin Blizard S: of Richard & Elizabeth Ham'.

Petersham parish register records that on 8 October 1755 'Allen Blizard of this parish bachelor & Mary Beal of this parish spinster were married in this chapel by licence with consent of parents'. The bride and groom both signed their names. Witnesses were James Beal & James Hastings. When the marriage licence was granted on the same day, the bondsmen were the groom (described as a husbandman of Petersham) and James Beal of the same parish, cook.

Allen and Mary were the parents of these children:

	Baptised	Married	Buried
Mary	1756 Kingston	William Snelling 1776	1831 Petersham
Allen	1758 Kingston	Sarah Lee 1786	1832 Petersham
Richard	1760 Petersham		
William	1763 Petersham		
John	1764 Petersham	n/a	1765 Petersham
Ann	1765 Petersham		
John	1767 Petersham		
Elizabeth	1769 Petersham		
James	1772 Petersham		

Petersham parish register records the burial on 14 April 1773 of 'Allon Blizard'. No probate record has been found, either for him or for his widow, Mary.

Inscriptions on three headstones that are (or used to be) in Petersham churchyard commemorated Allen and Mary Blizard and some members of their close family. Transcriptions were published in 1889 in 'Fragmenta Genealogica, volume VI' by Frederick Arthur Crisp.

[8] *History of St Peter's Church, Petersham* by Charles D Warren, page 85.
[9] *The Matchless Vale* by Vanessa Fyson, pages 86-87.
[10] The National Archives: PROB 11/845/435
https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D546773

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

IN MEMORY OF/ MR ALLEN BLIZARD / WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE APRIL / THE 12TH 1773 AGED 47 YEARS. /ALSO MRS MARY BLIZARD / WIFE OF THE ABOVE WHO DEPARTED / THIS LIFE DECEMBER THE 22ND 1785 / AGED 55 YEARS. / ALSO TWO GRAND CHILDREN WHO DIED YOUNG [11]

IN MEMORY OF / MRS HANNAH LEE / WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 16 / OF JUNE 1806, AGED 62 YEARS / ALSO JOHN BLIZARD SON OF / ALLEN & SARAH BLIZARD / OF THIS PARISH / WHO DIED THE 27TH OF SEPTR 1812 / IN THE 16TH YEAR OF HIS AGE / ALSO IN THE ADJOINING GRAVE / IS INTERRED ELIZA BLIZARD, / ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE / NAMED ALLN & SARH BLIZARD / WHO DIED THE 7TH OF FEBY 1813 / IN THE 25TH YEAR OF HER AGE. [12]

IN MEMORY OF / MR ALLEN BLIZARD / OF RICHMOND, SURREY, / AND MANY YEARS AN INHABITANT / OF THIS PARISH / WHO DIED THE 27TH OF OCTOBER 1832, / IN THE 75TH YEAR OF HIS AGE / ALSO / MRS SARAH BLIZARD, / WIFE OF THE ABOVE / WHO DIED THE 1ST OF MAY 1846 / IN THE 82ND YEAR OF HER AGE. / ALSO / MATILDA AMELIA BLIZARD / DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE / WHO DIED 10TH SEPTEMBER 1878, / AGED 72 YEARS. [13]

John Blizard: uncle

'John Blizard s of Richd & Elisabeth' was baptised at Kingston on 25 March 1735.

John was the sole beneficiary in the will that his father made in 1758 and for which probate was granted to John on 24 April 1759. At least four of his siblings were then still alive. However, the provisions of the will did not necessarily reflect favouritism or family disputes. Allen was the oldest son and may have benefitted from arrangements outside the scope of the will, such as an entail; Elizabeth was already married and had probably been provided for.

Petersham parish register records the marriage on 18 September 1760 of John Blizard & Susannah Chowles by licence. Bride & groom were both of the parish and both signed their names. The witnesses were Jos. Davis & Sarah Balicourt.

John and Susanna had two children baptised at Petersham:

	Baptised	Married	Buried
Catherine	1761	Thomas Collins 1782	
Mary	1763		

Both daughters were less than three years old when their mother 'Susannah Blizzard' was buried at Petersham on 20 May 1764. John did not remain a widower for long as on 4 July 1764 he married Mary Priest, a spinster of Isleworth, Middlesex, at her parish church. The marriage was by licence, the bond stating that John was a farmer of Petersham.

John's second marriage was short-lived as he was buried at Petersham on 22 November 1764, less than five months after the wedding. He left no will but administration was granted to his widow Mary on 3 December of that year, the associated allegation provided the detail that John had expired on 17 November. By this stage, his widow was expecting a daughter who was baptised at Petersham on 2 June 1765. This child was not mentioned when her mother made her will in 1789, the reason being that 'Elizth Blizzard' was buried at Petersham on 20 August

[11] https://archive.org/details/fragmentagenealo06cris/page/52/mode/2up
[12] https://archive.org/details/fragmentagenealo06cris/page/116/mode/2up
[13] https://archive.org/details/fragmentagenealo06cris/page/116/mode/2up

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

when only about three months old (infant burials were not identified as such in the register at that time and no other possible burial or marriage has been found for the daughter).

John's widow survived him by 26 years and did not marry again. Petersham register records the burial on 27 April 1791 of 'Mrs Mary Blizard aged 62 of the parish of Richmond. By the Rt. side of Mr Jos. Davis's footstone'.

'Mary Blizard of Richmond, widow' made her will on 29 October 1789. In it, she asked to be buried at Petersham 'as near the remains of my late husband as may possibly be'. The will mentions many beneficiaries, including 'my two step daughters namely Catherine Collins and Mary Blizard' to whom she left £10 each. Probate was granted by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 5 May 1791. The will is very long but the office copy can be seen and downloaded as a PDF free of charge.[14]

William Blizard: father

Kingston parish register records the baptism on 11 March 1740/1 of 'William Blizard s: of Richd: & Mary'. As explained above, it is probable that 'Mary' was a mistake for 'Elizabeth'.

On 2 April 1762, a licence was granted by the Commissary Court of Surrey for the marriage of William Blizard, aged 23 and a bachelor, to Mary Keene, a 32-year-old widow. William was described as a farmer. Both parties were said to have lived in the parish of Kingston for several years and it was in that parish church that the ceremony was performed on the following day, the witnesses being John Bryant and Elizabeth Green. The age given in the allegation for the marriage licence corresponds fairly closely to the 1740/1 baptism of Richard's son. The signature of the intended groom was written as follows:

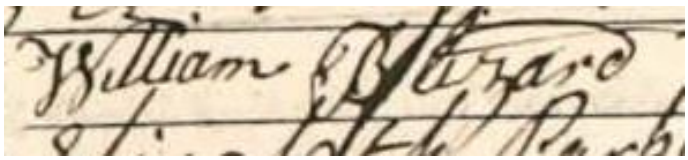
No records have been found of children of the marriage. However, Mary had evidently died by the time of William's next marriage, which took place in 1767. One of these burial records in Surrey and the London area may be of the former Mary Keene:

- 17 August 1762: 'Mary Blizzard' at Petersham
- 13 February 1766: 'Mary Blizard' at St John Hackney
- 9 September 1766: 'Mary Blizard of Match Walk' at St Paul Shadwell

[14] The National Archives: PROB 11/1204/163.
https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D3369630

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

William Blizard, a widower, married Elizabeth Parker, a spinster, by banns at St Leonard Shoreditch on 6 October 1767. Both were described as being of that parish; he signed his name but she made her mark in the register. The witnesses were John McClaren and Martha Young, neither of whom are known to have been related to either party. The signature of the groom was almost identical to that written when the marriage licence was applied for in 1762:



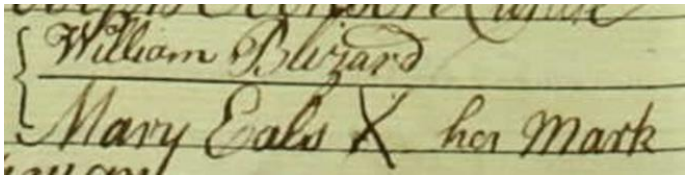
These children of William and Elizabeth were baptised, also at St Leonard Shoreditch:

	Born/baptised*	Married	Buried
Martha	1771 1771*	n/a	1772 Whitechapel
William	1772 1772*		
Frederick Bull	1773 1773*		

The mother evidently died between the birth of her youngest child on 28 October 1773 and the remarriage of her husband on 31 May 1779. It is likely that she was one of these people whose burials during that period were recorded as follows in nearby parishes:

- 2 September 1775: 'Elizabeth Blizzard of Mile End Old Town. Fees = £0.4s.6d. Dropsy 41' at St Dunstan Stepney.
- 27 January 1779: 'Elizth: Blizard of Bakers Row aged 45, disease = consum[ption]' at St Mary Whitechapel.

William Blizard, a widower, who married Mary Eals, a widow, at St Leonard, Shoreditch on 31 May 1779 had the same signature as the man with the same name who had married at the same church in 1767. The witnesses were Thomas Chapman and Ann Andrews.



These seven children of William and Mary Blizard were all baptised at St Mary Whitechapel:

	Born/baptised*	Married	Died
John	1782		
Mary Ann	1785		
Richard	1786		
Allen	1788 1789*		
Thomas Samuel	1790	n/a	1790
John	1791		
James	1795 1811*	Sarah Shields 1826	1846

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

It is not clear what William did for a living after moving to the London area. The addresses set out in Appendix C and the number of his children (if most survived infancy) suggest that he was not well-off.

It is not known when William died but possible that one of these burials may be his.

Name	Age	**	Abode	Buried	Burial place
William Blizard	55	1746	St Sepulchre's	24 November 1801	St John Clerkenwell
William Blizard	61	1758	High Street	16 March 1820	St Mary Lambeth
William Blizard	82	1748	Little Chelsea	13 December 1830	St Luke Chelsea

** = *approximate birth year indicated*

Those on the list have been identified in indexed records of burials later than 1794 in what was then the built-up area of London and in Surrey for which the age of the person concerned was recorded and indicates birth before 1750. The details were then checked in the relevant original registers. There were almost certainly other burials that may be the correct one.

Mary Eals (widow): mother

'Mary Eals', whom William Blizard married in 1779, had been married at least twice before. No record has been identified of the first of these earlier weddings, so her maiden name is unknown. The earliest occasion when she can be positively identified is the marriage at St Leonard Shoreditch on 19 September 1774 of 'James Eales of this parish bachelor & Mary Corderoy of this parish widow by banns'. The groom signed his name but the bride made her mark. The witnesses were Robert Hone & Mary Norton (x); it is not known whether either of the witnesses were related to the couple. No record has been found of any children who may have been born of this marriage. Nor has a burial record been located for James Eales.

Mary was alive in 1795 when her youngest child was born. If she was at least 18 at the time of her second marriage in 1774 and no more than 50 in 1795, her own birth would have taken place between 1745 and 1756. Evidence which may relate to her life before 1774 is discussed in Appendix E.

No death or burial record has been identified as definitely this Mary Blizard. Possible candidates include:

Name	Age	**	Abode	Buried	Burial place
Mary Blizard	65	1753	Workhouse	30 June 1819	St Botolph Aldgate
Mary Blizard	61	1759	Twickenham	3 November 1820	Twickenham
Mary Blizard	68	1757	21 Harford Street	14 September 1825	St Pancras

** = *approximate birth year indicated*

They have been drawn from indexed burials that took place later than 1794 in what was then the built-up area of London and in Surrey for which the age of the person concerned was recorded and indicates birth before 1760, with the details checked in the relevant original registers. There were almost certainly other burials that may be the correct one. Of those that have been found, the one at St Botolph Aldgate is the most plausible as that parish is adjacent

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

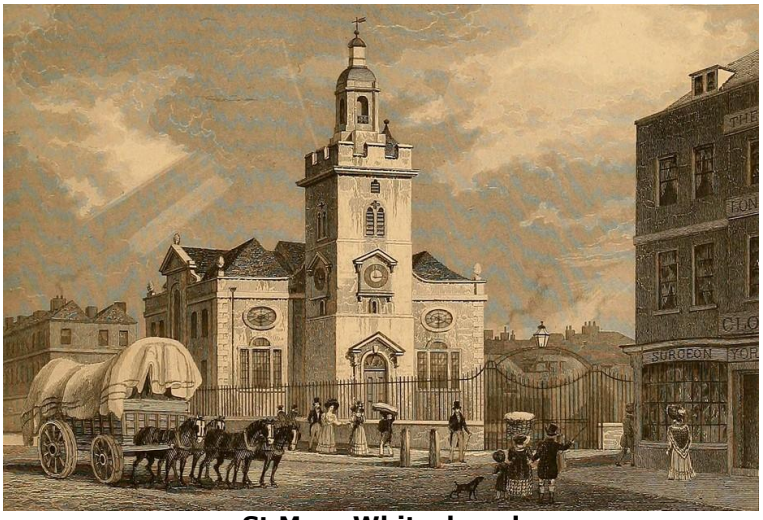
to Whitechapel. However, if the age recorded when she was buried is accurate, that Mary would have been about 15 when she married James Eals as her second husband and about 42 when her youngest child was born.

Shoreditch and Whitechapel

A list of places in the Shoreditch and Whitechapel area where William Blizard lived is set out in Appendix C.

The parish of St Leonard Shoreditch is immediately north of the eastern part of the City of London and was already part of the built-up area by the latter half of the 18th century. It had a population of 34,766 at the time of the 1801 census. Its church still stands at the junction of Shoreditch High Street and Old Street.[15]

The church of St Mary Whitechapel (also known as St Mary Matfelon) no longer exists.[16] It was situated on the south-east side of Whitechapel Road, a short distance to the north-east of its junction with Commercial Road. The parish extended eastwards just outside the City of London and also included a substantial amount of development before 1800. Its population stood at 23,666 in 1801. The picture below shows the 17th-century church building as it appeared in about 1829.[17]



St Mary Whitechapel

[15] https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1235382?section=official-list-entry
[16] https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/survey-of-london/2016/06/10/the-church-of-st-mary-matfelon-whitechapel-part-one/
[17] *London and its environs in the nineteenth century* by Thomas H Shepherd (London, 1829), page 107. https://archive.org/details/londonitsenviron1829shep/page/106/mode/2up

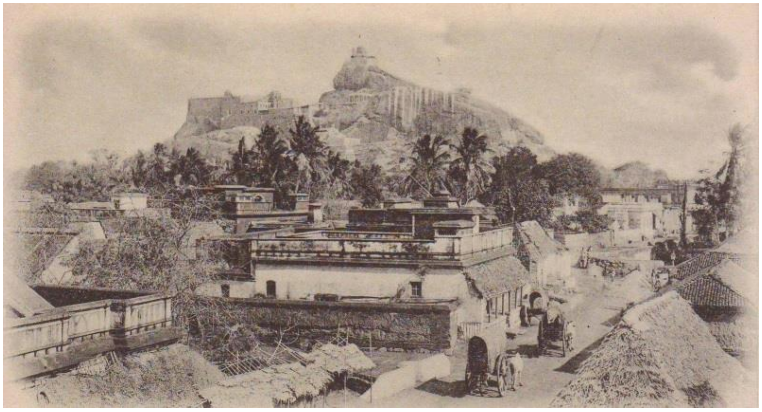
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Army Career

James Blizard was born at Whitechapel on 12 June 1795. For unknown reasons and unlike his siblings, James was christened as an adult; the ceremony took place at St Mary's church on 17 May 1811, when he was almost 16 years old.[18]

James Blizard was a labourer when he enlisted in the army, serving as a substitute for John Andrews, at Gravesend, Kent, on 26 June 1815.[19]

The full title of James' regiment changed during his membership. In 1821 'The First Regiment of Foot, The Royal Scots' was renamed as 'The First or The Royal Regiment of Foot'.[20] He was initially enrolled in the 1st Battalion of the regiment, which was then stationed at Edinburgh. From there, he moved on to Glasgow early in 1816. By that time, the main body of the battalion was stationed at Belfast, where it remained for over a year. During 1816 and 1817, James served at Downpatrick, followed by Belfast, Enniskillen, Killybegs, Trillick and Derry Bridge. From the middle of 1818 until about March 1820, he was at Dublin. He was then transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the regiment for service in India, where he arrived on 2 September of the same year. James was initially stationed at Trichinopoly (now Tiruchirappalli), in the south-east of India. He remained there until the end of 1824.



The Fort, Trichinopoly

Early in 1825, James was amongst the troops who travelled by sea from Fort William at Calcutta to Rangoon to take part in the First Anglo-Burmese War, which had begun in the previous year.[21] From about March to July 1825, he was sick at Rangoon. This was almost certainly a result of wounds received in the assault on Danubyu, on the Irrawaddy River to the north of Rangoon, as James later testified that he was in the Burmese campaign and hurt in the testicle at the storming of a stockade.[22]

[18] Whitechapel parish register records the date of James' birth and the christenings for him and his siblings.
[19] This and many other details of James' army service are taken from his discharge papers, which are kept in The National Archives (TNA): WO97/220.
[20] *The Royal Scots* by A M Brander (London, 1976).
[21] *Reminiscences of the Burmese War in 1824-5-6* by Capt. F B Doveton provides a contemporary account of the War. https://archive.org/details/reminiscencesofb00doverich
[22] The National Archives: WO71/301, which contains details of James' court martial in 1838.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

The British column came in sight of Danubyu on 25 February, where it faced an army of some 15,000 troops in defensive positions running for nearly one mile along the river bank. The beams of the solid teak stockades were some seventeen feet in length, driven firmly into the ground. Brick ramparts behind were defended by 150 cannon and swivel guns. Amongst the equipment used by the Burmese were seventeen war elephants, whilst the British flotilla included a steam-vessel. Danubyu was not captured until 2 April.

British troops at Danubyu, 27 March 1825

By 24 July, James had recovered sufficiently to be mustered with the battalion at Prome where he remained until the end of the year. On 24 December, he was on board a flotilla, moving on to Patanago and Yandabo. For most of the Burmese campaign, the battalion was split into detachments of various sizes and it is likely that James was involved in further fighting. The peace treaty that ended the war was signed with the King of Ava on 24 February 1826, following which James' battalion sailed back to India, reaching Bangalore by August.

The Burmese campaign had taken a heavy toll of James' regiment, a total of 428 men dying from disease alone. It may be partly as a result of these heavy losses that the opportunity arose for him to be promoted to corporal with effect from 28 September 1826.

Throughout James' military career, one of his comrades in the same battalion had been Hugh Shields (or Shealds), a private who was born at Hillsborough, County Down, and had enlisted in 1813. Hugh died at Bangalore on 17 August 1826, after which his effects, which amounted to £4.9s.8d, were paid to his widow.[23] Her Christian name was not stated in Hugh's military record, but there can be no doubt that she was the same person as Sarah Shealds, a widow, who married James Blizard in the church at Bangalore on 24 January 1827. James signed the register as 'James Blizzard' but Sarah made her mark.

Sarah was somewhat younger than James; for reasons discussed below, she was probably born in the first few years of the 19th century. The two children whom she and Hugh are known to have produced had died before their father and were buried at Trichinopoly within three days of each other:

[23] The National Archives: WO25/1504.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

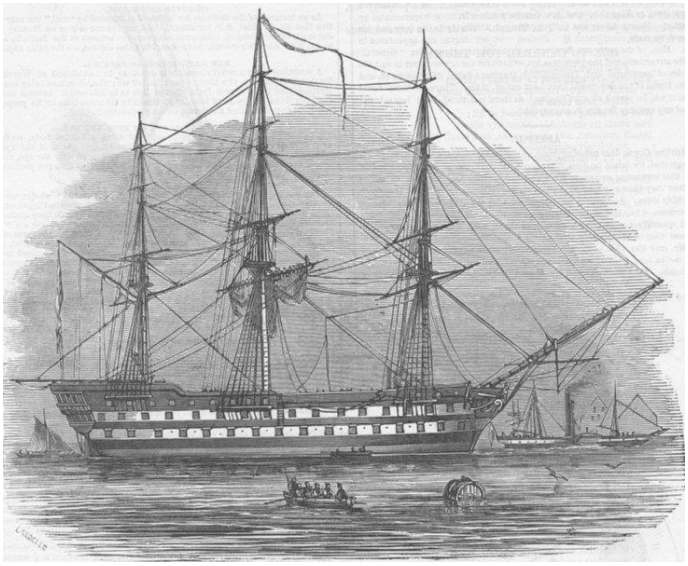
- Ellen, on 18 November 1820, aged 2 years 3 months[24]
- Hugh, on 21 November 1820, aged 6 months[25]

On 24 October 1827, James was again promoted, this time to sergeant. Shortly afterwards, on 25 November 1827, James and Sarah's daughter Mary Ann was born at Bangalore. She was christened there three weeks later. A son, James Henry, was born at Bangalore on 21 October 1829 and christened on 18 November.

The experience of the 2nd Battalion in India was far from comfortable, with much time spent in marching, the marches generally starting at three in the morning and lasting for between six and eight hours. The rice-growing areas were so wet that many soldiers marched barefoot. Barracks were constructed from coconut trees, housing 180 men in each structure, without proper bedding.

James left Bangalore in the middle of 1830. His son James Henry died in 1831 and was buried at St Thomas Mount in Madras (now Chennai) on 22 January.[26]

In April 1831, James was mustered at Fort St George, but from June to September was 'at sea on HMS Calcutta'.[27] By 20 October, the ship had arrived from Madras at Plymouth.[28] On 24 October, it was reported that 'The 1st or Royal Regiment, which arrived from India, in the *Calcutta*, of 84 guns, were brought round to Spithead in the *Wellesley*, and will be transferred to the *Tribune* frigate, for passage to Chatham.'[29]



HMS Calcutta

[24] https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FGPV-5MQ
[25] https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FGPV-5MV
[26] https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6627-59XD?lang=en
[27] The National Archives: WO12.1967.
[28] *Enniskillen Chronicle and Erne Packet*, 20 October 1831, page 4, column 5.
[29] *Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle*, 24 October 1834, page 4, column 4.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

James' service between then and the end of 1833 was at Chatham, Edinburgh, Fort George and Glasgow. It was whilst they were at Chatham that James and Sarah's youngest known child was born – she was christened there as Sarah in 1831.

By the beginning of 1834, James had reached Ireland, where he was posted in turn to Newry, Dublin, Athlone, Enniskillen, Boyle and Newbridge.

Court Martial

In the summer of 1837, James was transferred from Ireland to England and stationed at Devonport. His life took a dramatic turn for the worse on 9 December of that year when he was arrested.

At a court martial held at Devonport from 15 to 17 January 1838, James was accused of producing false receipts and vouchers for the expenses of the depot hospital at Boyle, Newbridge and Devonport during the previous two years. As hospital serjeant, he had appointed tradesmen to provide goods for the establishment. Amongst those giving evidence were suppliers from Ireland who confirmed that they had been fully paid but that they had not actually signed the receipts which James later passed on as records of payments made. The goods provided to the hospital ranged from sugar to leeches.

James pleaded guilty to the charge of sending up vouchers that had not been signed by the suppliers concerned but denied any intention to defraud. He testified that he had served as hospital serjeant since 1827, stressing that the goods supplied were of the highest quality and that all the proper payments had been made.

Three officers bore witness to his good character. Major R Bennett, the commissioner of the depot of the 2nd Battalion, stated that James had 'always been held in the highest estimation by all of his commissioned officers'. He thought that the charges arose from a slovenly manner of keeping accounts. Lieutenant J Richardson testified that he had known James Blizard since 1820 and continued 'I have always considered him one of the best non-commissioned officers in the regiment. It was the intention of Lt. Col. Wetherall and Col. Farquharson to recommend him for a Medal and Gratuity.'

The court martial found James guilty of the charges. It was noted that he had never been tried for any offence before and that his name did not appear once in the defaulters' book. He was sentenced to be reduced to the rank and pay of a private soldier.[30]

James was held in confinement until 8 February 1838. After his release, he remained at the depot in Devonport for over a year. However, his health failed and, after spending 15 days in hospital, he was discharged from the Army. The Regimental Board that considered James' discharge was convened at Devonport on 22 May 1839. The surgeon's report stated that he was completely worn out from length of service and repeated attacks of liver disease and that James had also suffered lately from an acute pectoral affection, adding that his conduct had been good whilst in hospital. The Board, after examining the defaulters' book and hearing verbal testimony from Captain Goadell, concluded that for many years James 'had conducted himself as a deserving non-commissioned officer and though tried and convicted of disgraceful conduct in producing false documents in support of contingent expenses of Depot Hospital it does not appear that he did so with a view to personal benefit.'

[30] The National Archives: WO71/301.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

James finally left the Army at Chatham in July 1839. He was then described as 5 feet 7 inches tall with brown hair, grey eyes and dark complexion. A note in the muster rolls at this time confirms that he was entitled to Burma Prize Money.[31]

Royal Military Asylum

When the census was held on 6 June 1841, James was the hospital sergeant resident at the Royal Military Asylum. This institution occupied an impressive complex of buildings to the south west of Sloane Square. A Grade II* listed building, the edifice still stands, its current name being the Duke of York's Headquarters.[32] Since 1985, it has been the home of the Saachi Gallery.[33] The following picture of the building dates from 1805.

The Asylum had been founded in 1801 to look after and educate the orphaned children of soldiers. Originally it catered for boys and girls but the girls had been removed from Chelsea in 1827. In 1841, girls returned but no additional girls were recruited and so in due course it again became a 'boys only' establishment.[34]

James and Sarah's daughters Mary Ann (mistakenly recorded as 'Margaret') and Sarah were among the 15 residents of a house at Franklin's Row, almost immediately south of the Asylum. No occupation was recorded for either of the girls, nor is it clear what their connection was with the others living there. Their ages were recorded as 14 and 10 respectively.

Tuberculosis (then known as phthisis) was incurable in the 19th century. James was still in post at the Royal Military Asylum when he succumbed to the disease there on 29 April 1846. His burial in the new burial ground of St Luke's, Chelsea took place six days later.[35]

---

[31] The National Archives: WO12/1973.
[32] https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1266717?section=official-list-entry
[33] https://www.saatchigallery.com/about
[34] *Play up Dukies, Duke of York's Royal Military School 1801-1986*, published by the Duke of York's Royal Military School Old Boys' Association (Fetcham, 1986).
[35] The two burial registers provide these details: Number 54, row 14, quarter N, depth of grave = 8 ft, single brick grave C, double brick grave = P, 6 shillings fee.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Royal Military Asylum & Franklin's Row in 1869

Sarah Shields (a widow): wife

The only record of Sarah's place of birth is in the 1841 census schedule of the Royal Military Asylum which says she was born in Ireland. Records disagree about when she was born**:**

- The 1841 census placed Sarah in the 40-44 age group, indicating she was born no later than 1801.
- When her daughter Sarah registered the mother's death in December 1846, the age was given as 42, which is the same age recorded by St George's Hospital where the mother was an in-patient toward the end of 1846.
- The burial register recorded her age as 43.

The age in the hospital records presumably came from Sarah herself, so we can be reasonably confident that she was born in 1804 or very close to that year.

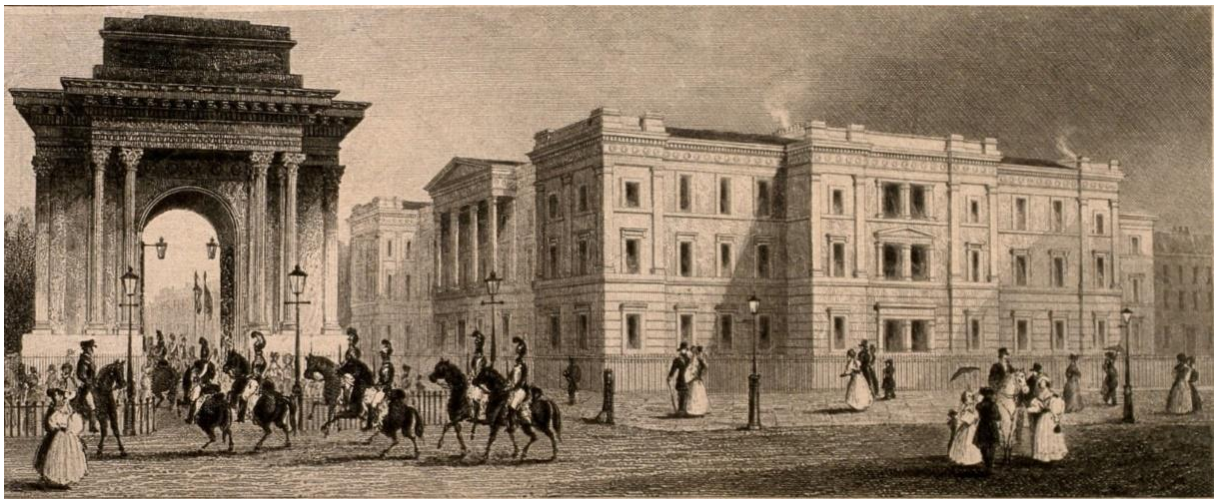
The date of her first marriage to Hugh Shields is unknown. Presumably, it took place before the birth of her oldest known child, Ellen, who was aged 2 years 3 months when she was buried on

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

18 November 1820. Assuming that Sarah had indeed been born in 1804, she would have been only about 14 years old when Ellen was born. Because of the number of different places where Hugh was stationed in the period before Ellen's birth, there is no strong front-runner to be the place in Ireland where Sarah was born.

Sarah's parentage and maiden name are also unknown. Her second marriage, the burials of her children and the baptisms of her three children from James were all performed by Anglican clergymen, so there is little doubt that her family in Ireland were Protestants.

The 1841 census described Sarah as a nurse. In the same year as James died, she became a hospital patient. St George's Hospital was housed in an impressive building at Hyde Park Corner. It had recently been rebuilt to a design by William Wilkins.[36] The building has since been extended and is now the Lanesborough Hotel.



St George's Hospital

On 14 October 1846, Sarah was admitted to St George's Hospital, 'presenting all the symptoms of a person labouring under disease of the lungs accompanied by disease of the kidney'. She remained an in-patient there until her death on 17 December, the cause being certified as tuberculosis along with granular degeneration of the kidneys. She was buried five days after she expired, also at St Luke's burial ground.[37] A post-mortem examination was carried out; its findings and her case notes can be seen online.[38]

Only two of James and Sarah's children survived infancy – Mary Ann and Sarah.

[36] https://wellcomecollection.org/works/btwmsrnm/images?id=gn5dvc2a&resultPosition=12
[37] The two burial registers provide these details: Number 64, row 17, quarter N, depth of grave 8 ft, single brick grave C, double brick grave P, 6 shillings fee.
[38] https://archives.sgul.ac.uk/cshx-fcy6-g7qf

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Mary Ann Blizard: daughter

The birth at Bangalore on 25 November 1827 of Mary Ann, daughter of James and Sarah Blizzard is recorded in the register of baptisms kept by the '2nd battalion of the 1st (or the Royal) Regiment of Foot'. Her baptism took place on 10 December of that year.

'Mary Blizard, aged 25' is to be found in the 1851 census as a servant living in at 10 Pelham Road (now Pelham Street), Kensington. She was the only servant living in at the 'Barclay or Mountinry' household, which consisted of two brothers and two sisters who at the time were all aged between 56 and 67. There can be no doubt that the record was of James and Sarah's daughter, because her birthplace was recorded as 'East Indies, British subject'.

Mary Ann, daughter of James Blizard, was living at Chichester Place, a terrace of buildings at the north end of the west side of Greys Inn Road, when she married Mark Read at St Pancras church on 18 December 1853.[39] It is not known in which of the 18 buildings in there she lived. A picture probably taken in the late 19th century of 319 & 321 Grays Inn Road (5 & 6 Chichester Place) can be seen on the 'Herbert 250 Years' website.[40]

Charles Frederick Read, one of the six children of Mark and Mary Ann Read, is the subject of a separate publication.[41] It includes extensive details of his paternal forebears, siblings and the various places in London where members of the Read family have been found.

The most recent record that definitely refers to Mary Ann is the 1871 census of 1 Albert Place, near Old Kent Road, London, where she was living with her husband and two of her children. The family has not been found in the 1881 census. When Mark Read died in 1884, his death was registered by Charlotte Read' who described herself as his widow. However, no record has been found of his marriage to anyone of that name. It appears that Mary Ann and Mark simply parted company between 1871 and 1884, in which case it is quite possible that Mary Ann may have survived him. She may have been the same person as Mary Ann Read, a laundress who died of pneumonia in Newington Workhouse, Westmoreland Road, Walworth, on 2 February 1890. However, the age recorded when that death was registered was 59, which is three years adrift from Mary Ann Blizard's birth date of 25 November 1827.

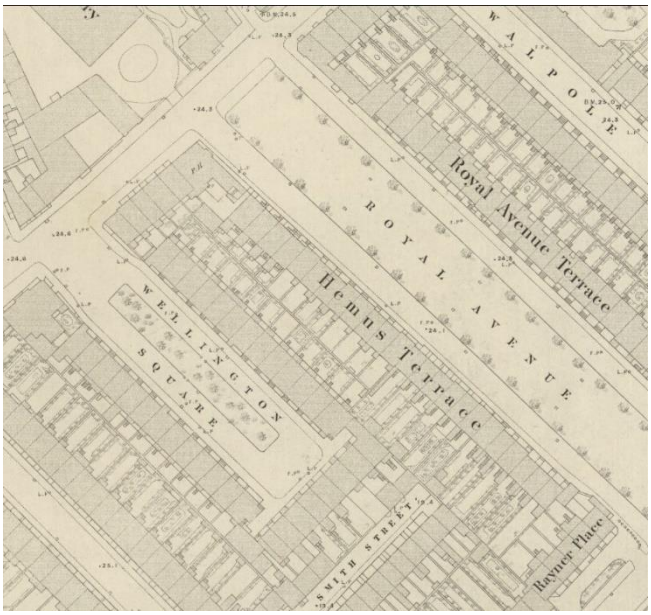
[39] The terrace formerly called Chichester Place has been renamed as 311-345 (odd) Grays Inn Road and still stands.
[40] http://www.herberthistory.co.uk/cgi-bin/sitewise.pl?act=big&p=280&id=herbhis
[41] *Charles Frederick Read (1862-1950) and his family* by Francis Howcutt.
https://archive.org/details/charles-frederick-read-family-v-01

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Sarah Blizard: daughter

Sarah, daughter of James and Sarah Blizard, was baptised at St Mary. Chatham on 22 December 1831.

The 1851 census recorded 'Sarah Blizzard, aged 19' as a servant living in at the home of Mary M Waters, a private school mistress, at 14 Hemus Terrace, Chelsea.[42] Sarah can be positively identified in the census schedule as her birthplace was stated to be Chatham.



Hemus Terrace in 1865

2-48 (even) Royal Avenue

Sarah Blizard who signed as a witness to Mary Ann's marriage in 1853 was presumably the bride's sister. No record has been found of Sarah marrying or dying in England and Wales, nor does she appear there in any census later than 1851 - a plausible explanation for this is that she may have emigrated during the 1850s.

[42] Hemus Terrace has been renamed as 2-48 (even) Royal Avenue. It is on the south-west side of an imposing avenue leading to the Royal Hospital at Chelsea.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

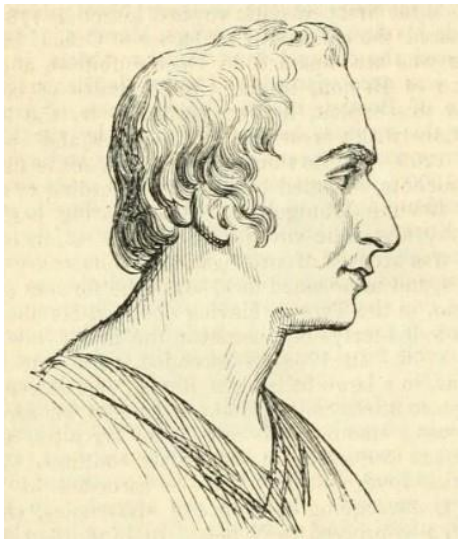
Appendix A: Early Blizards at Kingston and Barnes

'John Blesset and Isabell [?]og' were married at Kingston on 18 September 1664. The marriage was evidently short-lived, as Kingston parish register also records the burial in August 1669 of 'John Blissett in Norburton'.[43] Administration for his estate (with the surname spelled as Blizard) was granted on 24 August 1669 to his widow, Isabell.[44] The associated inventory, taken on 21 August 1669, described him as a husbandman. It recorded the value of his possessions as 43 shillings 4 pence, with a further £29 of 'desparate debts owing to the deceased'.[45]

'Mary Blisard daughter of William Blisard of [illegible]' was baptised at Kingston in June 1684.

Barnes is a parish on the south side of the River Thames. It included a substantial house named Barnes Elms, which was about four miles from Petersham. The parish register of Barnes has numerous records of baptisms of people with the Blizard or Blizzard surname, largely during the 18th century, the earliest of these being in the 1690s. The eminent surgeon Sir William Blizard (1743-1835) was born at Barnes Elms, a child of William Blizard, an auctioneer, and his wife, Elizabeth Robinson.[46] His knighthood was because of his medical accomplishments and not inherited. An illustrated biography of Sir William can be found on the website of Queen Mary College, University of London.[47] Other accounts are:

- *A Brief Memoir of Sir William Blizard* by William Cooke (London, 1835) [48]
- *The British Cyclopaedia of Biography* by Charles Frederick Partington (1837-8), pages 223-225. [49] The following picture of Sir William is from this publication.



[43] Norbiton is about one mile east of the centre of Kingston and until 1840 was part of that ancient parish.
[44] The National Archives: PROB 6/44.
[45] The National Archives: PROB 4/1741.
[46] https://www.calmview.co.uk/BartsHealth/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Persons&id=DS%2FUK%2F168
[47] https://www.qmul.ac.uk/blizard/about/about-sir-william-blizard/
[48] *A Brief Memoir of Sir William Blizard* by William Cooke (London, 1835).
https://archive.org/details/b2169493x/mode/1up
[49] https://archive.org/details/britishcyclopaed01partuoft/page/222/mode/2up

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix B: Will of Richard Blizzard, probate 1759

Text of the office copy of the Will[50]

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN
I Richard Blizzard of Petersham in the County of Surry Farmer being of sound mind memory and understanding do make publish and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say)
First and principally I commend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God and my Body to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named and as to my Temporal Estate I dispose the rest as followeth
first I desire that all my just debts Funerall expenses and the expense of the probate of this my Will shall be fully satisfied and paid and after payment thereof I give and bequeath unto my loving son John Blizzard all and every my Goods Chattels Corn Cattle Implements of Husbandry and Effects whatsoever and wheresoever and of what Nature or kind soever as I shall be possessed of at the time of my Decease and
Lastly I do hereby nominate Constitute and appoint my said son John Blizzard Sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former and other Wills by me heretofore made and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament
In Witness whereof I the said Richard Blizzard the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament contained in one Sheet of Paper set my hand and seal the Sixth Day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Fifty Eight
The Mark of Richard Blizzard
Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said Richard Blizzard the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his Request and in the presence of each other have Subscribed our Names as Witnesses hereto
Geo. Long. Jos Davis Robt. Swatman.

Probate at Prerogative Court of Canterbury

THIS WILL was proved at London the Twenty fourth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Fifty nine before the Worshipful George Harris Doctor of Laws Surrogate of the Right Worshipful Edward Simpson Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oath of John Blizzard the Son of the deceased and Sole Executor named in the said Will to whom Administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the deceased
having been first sworn duly to administer.

[50] The National Archives: PROB 11/845/435
https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D546773

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix C: Where William Blizard lived at Shoreditch & Whitechapel

The parish registers of St Leonard Shoreditch and St Mary Whitechapel record these places where William Blizard was living when he married or his children were baptised (in the case of James, the address may relate to his birth and/or his later baptism):

Date	Address	Parish and occasion
6 Oct 1767	Shoreditch parish	Shoreditch – his marriage to Elizabeth Parker
17 June 1771	Holywell Lane	Shoreditch – baptism of daughter Martha
28 June 1772	Holywell Lane	Shoreditch – baptism of son William
23 Nov 1772	Bakers Row	Whitechapel – burial of daughter Martha
28 Nov 1773	Holywell Lane	Shoreditch – baptism of son Frederick Bull
31 May 1779	Shoreditch parish	Shoreditch – his marriage to Mary Eals
20 Nov 1782	Great Garden Street	Whitechapel – baptism of son John
23 March 1785	Trumpet Yard	Whitechapel – baptism of daughter Mary Ann
12 April 1786	Trumpet Yard	Whitechapel – baptism of son Richard
22 Feb 1789	Roadside	Whitechapel – baptism of son Allen
10 Feb 1790	Roadside	Whitechapel – baptism of son Thomas Samuel
19 May 1790	Roadside	Whitechapel – burial of son Thomas Samuel
4 May 1791	Roadside	Whitechapel – baptism of son John
12 June 1795 &/or 17 May 1811	Roadside	Whitechapel – son James born (1795), baptised (1811)

- Bakers Row ran north from Whitechapel Road as far as Princes Street (now the eastern part of Old Montague Street). Bakers Row itself is now the southern end of Vallance Road.
- Great Garden Street ran from Whitechapel Road to Old Montague Street and has been renamed as the southern part of Greatorex Street
- Holywell Lane ran west from Shoreditch High Street to Curtain Road and has not been closed or renamed.
- Roadside meant some or all of Whitechapel Road. It does not indicate that the people present there lived in the open air.
- Trumpet Yard was on the north side of Whitechapel Road, between Black Lion Yard and the southern end of Great Garden Street.

The map created by Richard Horwood and published in 1799 identifies by name Bakers Row, Great Garden Street and Holywell Lane. Trumpet Yard also appears on the map but without its name, the entrance to it being between the buildings numbered 42 and 43. A digitised version of the map can be explored and zoomed into on the 'Layers of London' website.[51]

'A map of the parish of St Mary White Chappel' was published by John Strype in 1720. The digitised version labels Bakers Row (with reference 22) and Trumpet Yard (reference 18).[52]

As well as pinpointing the locations of places where William Blizard lived, these maps provide much detail about the surrounding neighbourhood.

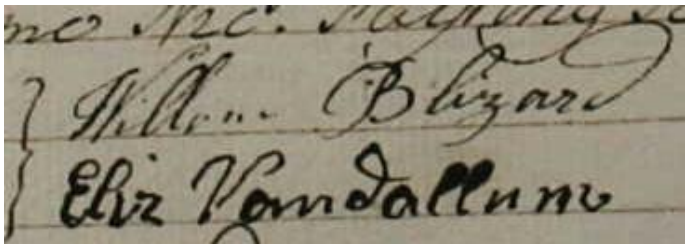
[51] https://www.layersoflondon.org/map/overlays/horwood-1799
[52] https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_map_of_the_Parish_of_St_Mary_White_Chappel_(BM_Heal,Topography.231).jpg

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix D: William Blizard of St Martin Outwich, Whitechapel & Bethnal Green

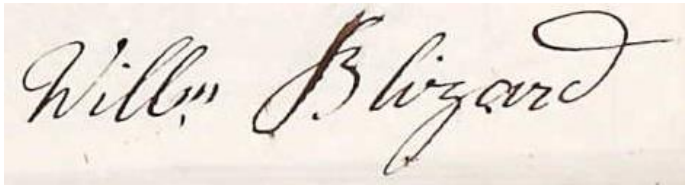
At least two different men, both with the name William Blizard, lived in Whitechapel in the latter part of the 18th century. In order to distinguish between them, these details have been assembled about the one who was not the father of James Blizzard (1795-1846).

William Blizard, a bachelor of the parish of St Mary Whitechapel, married Elizabeth Vandallum, a widow of St Martin Outwich in the City of London at her parish church on 11 September 1760. The marriage took place by licence, William's signature appearing both in the register and in the licence allegation, which was dated two days previously. His signature was clearly different to that of James Blizard's father:



It is probable that the bride was the same person as Elizabeth Blissard of High Street aged 46 who died of dropsy and was buried at St Mary Whitechapel on 5 April 1767.

A licence was issued on 14 August 1767 for the marriage of William Blizard, a widower, to Elizabeth Lindus, a widow. Both parties were of the parish of St Mary Whitechapel, where the ceremony was performed three days later. William's signature on the licence allegation is very similar to that provided at the 1760 marriage to Elizabeth Vandallum.



The will of William Blizard, a gentleman of St Matthew Bethnal Green, was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 21 May 1791.[53] Those whom he identified as relatives were his wife, Elizabeth, daughters Mary Blizard and Charlotte Blizard, a married daughter Nancy Johnson and daughters Catherine Blizard, Sarah Blizard and Sophia Blizard who were to receive legacies at the age of 21. As William's will was dated 16 May 1791, this implies that the last three daughters were born no later than 1770.

Elizabeth Blizard of Bethnal Green Road, a widow, made her will in October 1800. This was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 22 March 1802.[54] She asked to be interred in the chancel vault of All Hallows London Wall near the body of her late husband. She mentioned William Lindus as her child, which confirms that she was the widow Elizabeth Lindus who married

[53] The National Archives: PROB 11/1204/245. https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D361561
[54] The National Archives: PROB 11/1371/146. https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D741023

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

William Blizard in 1767. Elizabeth also mentioned these four offspring who were evidently children of that marriage: Catherine Pope, Sarah May, Charlotte Blizard and Sophia Blizard[55]

It appears that children mentioned in the two wills are amongst the following children of William & Elizabeth Blizard whose baptisms were recorded in the registers of All Hallows London Wall (AHLW), St Leonard Shoreditch (SLS) or St Mary Whitechapel (SMW):

Year	Name	Parish	Home	Will (W)	Will (E)	Married at St Matthew Bethnal Green
1770	Catherine	SMW	High Street	Yes	Yes	1791 John Pope
1771	Nancy	SMW	High Street	Yes		
1773	Sarah	SMW	High Street	Yes	Yes	1793 James May
1774	Mary	SMW	High Street			
1777	Elizabeth Sarah	SMW	Thomas Street			
1778	Susanna	AHLW				
1780	Mary	AHLW		Yes		
1783	Hetty	AHLW				
1784	Charlotte	AHLW		Yes	Yes	1802 John Butler

Will (W) = the same Christian name as a child in William Blizard's will
Will (E) = the same Christian name as a child in Elizabeth Blizard's will

[55] It is possible that the daughter Sophia was the same person as 'Sophia daughter of Wm. and Eliz: Blizard' whose baptism on 15 March 1776 was recorded in the parish register of Stowe on the Wold, Gloucestershire.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix E: Origins of Mary Corderoy, later Eales, then Blizard

No record has been found that definitely relates to the mother of James Blizard that is earlier than her marriage on 19 September 1774 at St Leonard Shoreditch to James Eales. However, the following clues may help further research into her origins.

Marriage

If Mary was at least 18 at the time of her second marriage in 1774 and no more than 50 in 1795, her own birth would have taken place between 1745 and 1756. It follows that if she was at least 15 years old at the time of her marriage to Corderoy, it would have taken place during 1760-1773.

Indexes by Ancestry, FindMyPast and FreeREG have been searched for the marriages during that period of any man with the surname Corderoy (or a variation) and Mary. Those found in London, Middlesex or Surrey have been checked with the parish registers and are:

- 18 April 1763 at Elstead, Surrey – William Corderoi & Mary Hurst, both of the parish, by banns. The bride signed her name.
- 5 November 1764 at St Andrew Holborn – John Corderoy & Mary Curry, both of the parish, by banns. Bride made her mark in the register.
- 22 February 1772 at St Andrew by the Wardrobe – Thomas Cowderoy, bachelor & Mary Fox, spinster, both of the parish, by banns. Bride signed her name.

The strongest candidate to be the future wife of James Eales and of William Blizard is Mary Curry, because she made a mark as was the case with the two later marriages.

Children of John & Mary Corderoy (or variation)

Those baptised in the London area during 1764 to 1774 were:

- 1 May 1766 at British Lying-in hospital, Holborn – Thomas (born 18 April). Mother was Mary (aged 28), wife of John Cordery, shoemaker of Walton upon Thames.
- 14 November 1768 at St James Westminster – Elizabeth Cordery (born 26 October).

The mother of the Thomas (born in 1766) was born about 1737-1738 and too old to have had a child in 1795. The child baptised in 1768 did not necessarily have the same parents as the one baptised in 1766, so Elizabeth may well have been a daughter of the 1764 marriage at the nearby parish of St Andrew Holborn.

Burial of John Corderoy (or variation)

The only such burial found in the London area during 1764 to 1774 is:

- 13 August 1771 at St Giles in the Fields – John Cordrey of Drury Lane.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix E: Descent of Eileen Gladwys Dalby from Richard Blizard

Richard BLIZARD married buried 1759 Petersham	**Elizabeth (perhaps Mary)** buried 1757 Petersham
William BLIZARD baptised 1740/1 Kingston on Thames married 1779 St Leonard Shoreditch	**Mary EALS (widow)** born 1745-1756
James BLIZZARD born 1795 Whitechapel married 1827 Bangalore died 1846 Chelsea	**Sarah SHEALDS (widow)** born c.1804 Ireland died 1846 Chelsea
Mary Ann BLIZARD born 1827 Bangalore married 1853 St Pancras	**Mark READ** born 1826 Holborn died 1884 Bermondsey
Charles Frederick READ born 1862 Walworth married 1888 St Stephen Walworth died 1950 Croydon	**Mary Anne EVANS** born 1860 Chester died 1949 Croydon
Amelia Mary Annie READ born 1889 Bermondsey married 1913 Lambeth died 1971 Camberwell	**Ernest Edwin DALBY** born 1890 Leicester died 1947 Cardiff
Eileen Gladwys DALBY born 1914 Sturry married 1947 Lambeth died 2010 West Norwood	**Francis Harold HOWCUTT** born 1911 Brixton died 2001 Lambeth